

Winter Weather Preparedness Week, Dec. 1-5, 2014

Although snow and ice aren't as commonly associated with Georgia as other parts of the country, even small amounts here can cause significant problems, such as hazardous road conditions and power outages.

To help residents prepare, plan and stay informed about winter, Governor Nathan Deal has proclaimed the week of December 1-5 as Winter Weather Preparedness Week. This is a great time to make sure you are prepared for extreme elements. A different educational topic will be featured each day:

- Monday, Dec. 1: **About Winter Weather in Georgia** – Learn about the different types of winter weather that affects Georgia.
- Tuesday, Dec. 2: **Winter Weather Terminology** – Learn about the different types of winter weather alerts and what they mean:
 - A **winter storm watch** is issued when significant winter weather (i.e. 2 inches or more of snow, ½ inch or more of sleet, ¼ inch or more of freezing rain, or a combination of these events) is possible, but not imminent. A wide range of weather events can prompt a winter storm watch so make sure to pay attention to what the watch is calling for specifically. A watch is typically issued 12 to 48 hours before the possibility of winter weather. This is the time to prepare.
 - A **winter weather advisory** indicates that winter weather is imminent and may cause inconveniences; monitor media for your local impacts. A winter weather advisory is issued up to 36 hours before an event where an 80 percent or greater chance of winter precipitation (i.e. snow, freezing rain/drizzle, sleet or blowing snow) is expected to cause inconveniences, but does not meet warning criteria. This is the time to put your winter weather safety plan into action.
 - A **winter storm warning** is issued when a significant winter storm (i.e., 2 inches or more of snow, ½ inch or more of sleet, ¼ inch or more of freezing rain, or a combination of these events) is imminent and is a dangerous threat to life and property. These warnings are typically issued up to 36 hours before an event that has an 80 percent or greater chance of significant winter precipitation. This is the time to put your winter weather safety plan into action.
- Wednesday, Dec. 3: **Winter Weather Preparation Tips** – Learn how to prepare a Ready kit and make a plan for winter weather.
- Thursday, Dec. 4: **Winter Weather Driving Safety** – Learn best practices for driving in winter conditions and how to pack a mobile Ready kit.
- Friday, Dec. 5: **Winter Weather Outlook** – Learn what to expect this winter.

For more information on how to prepare for severe weather, to create a personal profile to receive a customized checklist and family communications plan, visit www.ready.ga.gov or download the *Ready Georgia* app.